

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4675

INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

UNCLAS CAPE TOWN 0608

E.O.11652:N/A

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SUBJ :REPORT LABELS CI DANGER TO STATE

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. UNANIMOUS REPORT OF LE GRANGE(FORMERLY SCHLEBUSCH) COMMISSION,ISSUED MAY 28, CONCLUDES THAT 'CERTAIN ACTIVITIES OF CHRISTIAN INSTITUTE CONSTITUTE A DANGER TO THE STATE', AND RECOMMENDS THAT GOVERNMENT CONSIDER APPLYING 'CERTAIN STATUTORY PROVISIONS TO THE ORGANIZATION'.

END SUMMARY.

2. FORMERLY SCHLEBUSCH,NOW LE GRANGE,PARLIAMENTARY COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO CERTAIN ORGANIZATIONS RELEASED ITS FINAL REPORT ON CHRISTIAN INSTITUTE(CI) AFTERNOON MAY 28. COMMISSION FINDS INSTITUTE CULPABLE OF ATTEMPTING TO ACHIEVE ITS OBJECTIVE OF RADICAL SOCIAL CHANGE REGARDLESS OF POSSIBILITY THAT ITS ACTIONS MIGHT LEAD TO VIOLENT OVERTHROW OF ESTABLISHED AUTHORITY. CI ALSO CHARGED WITH BEING RESPONSIBLE FOR HAVING CONSISTENTLY ATTEMPTED TO CONDITION WHITES TO ACCEPT POSSIBILITY,PERHAPS INEVITABILITY,OF VIOLENT BLACK-WHITE CONFRONTATION.

3. SPECIFIC CI ACTIVITIES CRITICIZED ARE FOSTERING OF BLACK POWER AND BLACK THEOLOGY,ADOPTION OF SPROCAS II
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PROJECT GOAL(ALLEGED TO BE CREATION OF BLACK-DOMINATED

SOCIALIST SYSTEM), ATTEMPTS TO ENGENDER GUILT FEELINGS AMONG WHITE FOR SUPPORT OF STATE POLICIES AND ENDEAVORS TO MAKE BLACKS AWARE OF RIGHT TO REBEL AGAINST EXISTING SOCIAL ORDER.

4. MAIN POINT OF REPORT IN THAT CI HAS, BY ITS OWN PROGRAMS AND THROUGH ITS 'MOUTHPIECE' PRO VERITATE MAGAZINE, AS WELL AS VIS ITS RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER GROUPS (E.G. UNIVERSITY CHRISTIAN MOVEMENT, BLACK COMMUNITY PROGRAM), ABDICATED ITS RELIGIOUS ROLE "SO MUCH SO THAT IN APPEARANCE, IN CHARACTER, AND IN FUNCTION THE INSTITUTE HAS BECOME A POLITICAL BODY WITH A POLITICAL DESTINATION."

5. REPORT PROBED CI FUNDING, ALMOST ALL OF WHICH EMANATES FROM OVERSEAS. IN PARTICULAR, REPORT ALLEGES INSTITUTE MAINTAINS FINANCIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES (WCC), WHICH COMMISSION BRANDS A SUPPORTER OF VIOLENT ACTION AND OF 'TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS.' REPORT STATES THAT BECAUSE OF ASSOCIATION WITH WCC, CI CANNOT GIVE INDEPENDENT AND IMPARTIAL JUDGMENT BASED ON CHRISTIAN GROUNDS ON POLITICAL MATTERS.

6. REPORT MAKES NO SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS BUT STATES THAT PROPER AUTHORITIES SHOULD STUDY APPLICATION OF CERTAIN STATUTORY PROVISIONS TO CI.

7. CI EXECUTIVE BOARD, LED BY DR. BEYERS NAUDE, ISSUED STATEMENT BRANDING COMMISSION'S REPORT AS 'SMEAR' ATTEMPT AND DENYING FINANCIAL LINKS WITH WCC. STATEMENT ALSO REAFFIRMS THAT CI REJECTS VIOLENCE OF APARTHEID. IT ALSO STATES THAT REPORT'S UNBALANCED FINDINGS SERVE TO JUSTIFY REFUSAL OF CI MEMBERS TO TESTIFY BEFORE COMMISSION.

8. COMMISSION'S REPORT HAS ALSO DRAWN SHARP CRITICISM FROM PROGRESSIVE PARTY MEMBERS AND LIBERAL CHURCHMEN, SUCH AS ANGLICAN ARCHBISHOP BURNETT OF CAPE TOWN. HOWEVER, SUPPORT FOR CI VERY THIN IN SOUTH AFRICA, EVEN ENGLISH-LANGUAGE PRESS WHICH GIVES MORE THAN FAIR HEARING TO CI ON NEWS PAGES, IS EQUIVOCAL IN ITS ATTITUDE. TYPICALLY, THOUGH BOTH CAPE TIMES AND ARGUS REJECTED REPORT AND REPEATED LONG-UNCLASSIFIED

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OPERANDI, NEITHER SPRANG TO CI'S DEFENSE. ARGUS EDITORIALIZED THAT 'GOVERNMENT WOULD BE AMISS TO ACT AGAINST THE CI ON THE BASIS OF THIS REPORT ALONE'. CAPE TIMES ADDED, 'IF THE CI IS FOMENTING REVOLUTION, LET ITS LEADERS BE CHARGED IN COURT'.

9. REPORT WAS SIGNED BY ALL MEMBERS OF COMMISSION INCLUDING UNITED PARTY (UP) MEMBERS INCLUDING

UNITED PARTY (UP) LIONEL MURRAY AND BILL SUTTON, AND
FORMER UP MP ETIENNE MALAN. PARTICIPATION OF UP MEMBERS ON
COMMISSION HAS BEEN MAJOR BONE OF CONTENTION WITHIN UP
IN PAST. IN SOME PREVIOUS REPORTS UP MEMBERS HAVE ISSUED
MINORITY STATEMENTS WHICH HAVE SERVED TO MOLLIFY SOMEWHAT
PARTY LIBERALS. HOWEVER, GIVEN TENOR OF THIS DOCUMENT, WHICH
AT VERY LEAST GIVES SAG CONVENIENT PRETEXT TO DECLARE
INSTITUTE AN 'AFFESTED ORGANIZATION' AND THUS CUT OFF ITS
FOREIGN FUNDING, UP LIBERALS, NOTABLE JAPIE BASSON AND
NIC OLIVIER, MAY FIND IT DIFFICULT TO HOLD RANKS WITH PARTY
CONSERVATIVES.

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